Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A digital photography subsystem comprising:

a decryption module to accept image data and metadata from a digital camera, the metadata including a digital signature of the image data, ~~and~~ to verify the digital signature of the image data, and to examine the metadata to determine authenticity of the image data; and

a viewer module to display the image data when the decryption module indicates the image data is authentic;

wherein the metadata comprises a geographic location of the digital camera when the image was captured and fingerprint data obtained from a fingerprint reading device on the digital camera at the time the image was captured, the fingerprint data identifying the operator of the digital camera, and at least one of: date and time the image was captured, identifier of the camera owner, identifier of the photographer, and focal distance, white levels, f-stop, brightness compensation, and distance for auto-focus when the image was captured, and wherein the image data and metadata is associated with audit data indicating changes made to the image data since capture, and the viewer module is configured to display the audit data and the metadata.

10. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of generating secure digital photographic data comprising:

capturing image data representing an image in the physical world by a digital camera;

obtaining metadata associated with the captured image, the metadata comprising a geographic location of the digital camera when the image was captured and fingerprint data obtained from a fingerprint reading device on the digital camera at the time the image was captured, the fingerprint data identifying the operator of the digital camera, and at least one of: date and time the image was captured, identifier of the camera owner, identifier of the photographer, and focal distance, white levels, f-stop, brightness compensation, and distance for auto-focus when the image was captured, the metadata including audit data indicating changes made to the image data since capture;

digitally signing the image data and the metadata with a private key of an asymmetric key pair; and

storing the image data and metadata in a memory of the digital camera.

20. – 22. (cancelled)

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the private key is uniquely associated with the digital camera.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the private key is uniquely associated with a manufacturer of the digital camera.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A method of generating and authenticating digital photographs comprising:

capturing image data representing an image in the physical world by a digital camera;

obtaining metadata associated with the captured image, the metadata indicating characteristics of the image data;

determining a geographic location of the digital camera when capturing the image and wherein the metadata comprises the geographic location of the camera when the image was captured;

capturing fingerprint data obtained from a fingerprint reading device on the digital camera at the time the image was captured, the fingerprint data identifying the operator of the digital camera, the metadata including the fingerprint data,

digitally signing the image data and the metadata with a private key of an asymmetric key pair; and

transferring the image data, the digital signature, and the metadata to a host system;

authenticating the image data by the host system using the digital signature, a corresponding public key of the asymmetric key pair, and the metadata; and

updating audit data describing changes made to the image data, and associating the audit data with the image data and the metadata.

27. (Previously amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the metadata comprises at least one of: date and time the image was captured by the digital camera, identifier of the camera owner, identifier of the photographer, and focal distance, white levels, f-stop, brightness compensation, and distance for auto-focus when the image was captured.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising obtaining the date and time setting for the digital camera by the host system from a website controlled by at least one of the manufacturer and the distributor of the digital camera.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising updating the private key for the digital camera by the host system from a website controlled by at least one of the manufacturer and the distributor of the digital camera.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising displaying the image data when authenticated.

32. (Cancelled)

33. The digital photography subsystem of claim 9, wherein the metadata comprises a temperature reading obtained from a thermometer on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

34. The digital photography subsystem of claim 9, wherein the metadata comprises a barometer reading obtained from a barometer on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

35. The digital photography subsystem of claim 9, wherein the metadata comprises a compass reading obtained from a compass on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

36. (Cancelled)

37. The method of claim 19, wherein the metadata comprises a temperature reading obtained from a thermometer on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

38. The method of claim 19, wherein the metadata comprises a barometer reading obtained from a barometer on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

39. The method of claim 19, wherein the metadata comprises a compass reading obtained from a compass on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

40. (Cancelled)

41. The method of claim 26, wherein the metadata comprises a temperature reading obtained from a thermometer on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

42. The method of claim 26, wherein the metadata comprises a barometer reading obtained from a barometer on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

43. The method of claim 26, wherein the metadata comprises a compass reading obtained from a compass on the digital camera at the time the image was captured.

44. (Cancelled)